

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Claims 1 - 13 (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A coffee machine for preparing coffee using coffee pads, which comprises a continuous flow heater secured in a housing with a pipe for guiding water, which has a flexible tube connecting piece at one end, the flexible tube connecting piece including receiving elements for integrating additional components of the coffee machine.

15. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 14, further comprising a safety valve as an additional component.

16. (Currently Amended) The coffee machine according to claim [[14]] 24, further comprising a temperature sensor ~~as an additional component~~ mounted to the sleeve.

17. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 14, further comprising a reed switch as a water level sensor as an additional component.

18. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 14, wherein the flexible tube connecting piece is made from a high-temperature resistant plastic material.

19. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 14, wherein the flexible tube connecting piece includes a securing means for securing the continuous flow heater in the housing.

20. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 19, wherein the securing means includes additional receiving elements for integrating additional components of the coffee machine.

21. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 18, further comprising at least one of a safety valve, a temperature sensor, and a reed switch as a water level sensor as an additional component.

22. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 14, further comprising a heating rod thermally connected to the pipe of the continuous flow heater by means of at least one flat contact surface.

23. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 22, further comprising at least two heating rods thermally connected to the pipe of the continuous flow heater by means of at least one flat contact surface.

24. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 23, wherein the arrangement of the pipe and heating rods is held together by a sleeve.

25. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 21, further comprising a temperature sensor disposed on the sleeve.

26. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 14, wherein the flexible tube connecting piece comprises sealing means which abut against an inner wall of the pipe by which means the flexible tube connecting piece is connected to the ends of the pipe in a sealed manner.

27. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 26, wherein the sealing means is formed by an O-ring seal inserted in an annular groove on the outer circumference of the flexible tube connecting piece.

28. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 27, wherein at least two axially spaced O-ring seals are provided on the flexible tube connecting pieces.

29. (Previously Presented) The coffee machine according to claim 14, wherein the flexible tube connecting piece has a substantially conical shape and is inserted in a corresponding conical end of the pipe.

30. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 19, wherein the securing means secures the continuous flow heater in the housing in a position where the continuous flow heater is securely held at least a predetermined distance from other components of the coffee machine.

31. (New) The coffee machine according to claim 20, wherein the securing means secures the continuous flow heater in the housing in a position where the continuous flow heater is securely held at least a predetermined distance from other components of the coffee machine.